# Park Avenue Synagogue

ק"ק אגודת ישרים

# May Bulletin

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## *From the*
# Rabbi's Desk

My *Bat Mitzvah* ceremony was held on *Shavuot*. Since then, it has been one of my favorite holidays and each year I enjoy re-reading the book of Ruth and looking for new meaning. The following represents some of my thoughts interposed with various commentaries I read:

"Her neighbors gave it a name saying, there is a son born to Naomi, and they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David." (Ruth 4:17)

This year, the holiday of *Shavuot* begins on the evening of May 25th. On the festival of *Shavuot* we read the book of Ruth. It is a beautiful little book that touches on some powerful themes—the love and loyalty between a daughter-in-law and mother-in-law, a woman's conversion and commitment to the Jewish people, the rich helping the poor glean in their fields, and ultimately, a marriage that would lead to the birth of King David.

However, there is one theme that strikes me as central to the book, the very reason why the author wrote it. The book is a polemic against those who would classify people based on race and lineage. It is against those who would refuse to open the door to converts, or who would look at people and reject them because they are a "bad seed." It is against those like Ezra of each generation, who forced men who married out of the faith to reject their wives and children, without any opening for conversion. It teaches that

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## SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES
*May 2004*

Saturday morning, May 1
- *Hashkama* Service ..... 7:30 am
- Sanctuary Service ..... 9:15 am
  - *Bat Mitzvah of Tyler Courtney Landau, daughter of Audrey & Irv Landau*
- Tot *Shabbat* ..... 11:15 am

Friday evening *Rinah U'Tefilah* Service, May 7 ..... 6:15 pm

Saturday morning, May 8
- *Hashkama* Service ..... 7:30 am
- Sanctuary Service ..... 9:15 am
  - **Ambassador Alon Pinkas, Guest Speaker**
  - *Bat Mitzvah of Carolyn Ruvkun, daughter of Julie & Frederick Ruvkun*
- *Havurah* Service ..... 9:30 am
- *Shabbat B'yachad* ..... 11:00 am

Friday evening, May 14 ..... 6:15 pm
- **Children's May Birthday Celebration**
- **WEG Shabbat Service & Dinner (reservations required)**

Saturday morning, May 15
- *Hashkama* Service ..... 7:30 am
- *Shabbat* Morning Plus! Sanctuary Service ..... 9:15 am
  - *Bat Mitzvah of Sarah Weingarten, daughter of Jo-Ann & Allen Weingarten*
- Tot *Shabbat* ..... 11:15 am

Friday evening, May 21 ..... 6:15 pm
- *Minyan Ma'a lot* ..... 7:00 pm

Saturday morning, May 22
- *Hashkama* Service ..... 7:30 am
- Sanctuary Service ..... 9:15 am
  - *Bar Mitzvah of Barry Weinstein, son of Lynn Jawitz*
- *Havurah* Service ..... 9:30 am

Tuesday, May 25
- ***Erev Shavuot Service, Minha, Ma'ariv & Tikun Layl Shavuot*** **(special study session)** ..... 8:00 pm

Wednesday, May 26
- ***Shavuot* Sanctuary Service** ..... 9:15 am
- *Minha* ..... 5:45 pm

Thursday, May 27
- ***Shavuot* Sanctuary Service, including Yizkor** (memorial prayers) ..... 9:15 am

Friday evening, May 28 ..... 6:15 pm

Saturday morning, May 29
- *Hashkama* Service ..... 7:30 am
- Sanctuary Service ..... 9:15 am

Rabbi David H. Lincoln, Rabbi Kenneth A. Stern and Rabbi Paulette R. Posner will preach and conduct the services together with Cantor David Lefkowitz and Cantor Nancy Abramson and the Synagogue Choir, with Neil Robinson at the organ.

# P.A.S. "ISRAEL THIS YEAR" TRIP TO ISRAEL

## DECEMBER 18-26, 2004

## ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS & FACT SHEET

### *GOALS*

**The Park Avenue Synagogue Congregational trip to Israel aims to:**

- enhance a sense of community among our members and their families
- deepen our individual and communal sense of Jewish identity
- strengthen our ties to the State of Israel and further clarify and establish our roles as active and committed Jews in the Diaspora

### *HIGHLIGHTS*

- super-deluxe, 5-star accommodations
- varying activities for congregants of all ages with daily communal gatherings for meals and other major events
- special track for families with high school and college youth
- special track for those traveling without children
- 2 days of in-depth study and touring in the desert
- 5 days of touring and experiences in Jerusalem and the center of Israel
- 2 nights at the Caesar Premier Hotel, Dead Sea
- 5 nights at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem (choice of accommodations)
- jeep rides up to Jerusalem along the Burma Road
- 1 day in Tel Aviv and environs; Shabbat in Jerusalem
- special dinner and tour at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem
- sites and institutions you've never seen before in Israel (guaranteed even to those who have been to Israel multiple times!)
- opportunities to perform acts of chesed and community service, to explore issues relating to Israel's security, and to experience Israel's diverse cultural offerings

**THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF SECURITY WILL BE PROVIDED ON OUR TOUR, BOTH ON OUR BUSES AND BEHIND THE SCENES**

**PLEASE CONTACT SARAH GRIBETZ AT (212)369-2600 x142 OR BY EMAIL *sgribetz@pasyn.org***
**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND TO OBTAIN A REGISTRATION FORM**

**P.A.S. "Israel This Year"**
**TRIP TO ISRAEL.**
**DECEMBER 18-26, 2004**

## *FLIGHT INFORMATION*

The Synagogue has arranged for group fares (see below) on an El Al Airlines flight (i) to Israel, leaving N.Y.C. on Saturday night, December 18th (arriving in Israel at 4:30 pm on Sunday, December 19th), and (ii) returning from Israel on Sunday night, December 26th (arriving in N.Y.C. early on Monday, December 27th). If you choose to book your flights with our travel agent, you may take advantage of the group fares, payment plans and cancellation policy. Full payment will be due by September 15, 2004.

You may also inquire about using mileage points, Matmid points, upgrading to business or first class, stopovers, extensions and the details of other fare options (including different payment and cancellation policies). Additional charges will apply.

Call our travel agent, Claude Hakim at Field Travel, directly at (212) 682-2620, to make these arrangements.

If you choose to make your own travel arrangements with your own travel agent, you must inform Sarah Gribetz of your flight arrangements.

Please note that if you arrive on a non-P.A.S. group flight, you will be required to meet our group at Ben Gurion Airport, with your luggage. The buses will be leaving the Airport no later than 6:00 pm (sharp) on Sunday, December 19th, 2004.

For ***college students only*** who are joining their families and need to arrive in Israel later than December 19th, there will be special group flight arrangements available.

## *COSTS*

### AIR

Park Avenue Synagogue Groups Flights:

ECONOMY CLASS: **$1,250.00 per ticket** (includes all taxes)

BUSINESS CLASS: **$3,266 per ticket** (includes all taxes)

Contact our agent, Claude Hakim, directly at (212) 682-2620, to book your flights and make payment arrangements.

### LAND

Land cost includes 2 nights deluxe accommodations at Caesar Premier Hotel, Dead Sea, and 5 nights deluxe accommodations at King David Hotel, Jerusalem. It includes professional guides, all admissions, "Israeli" breakfasts, most lunches and dinners (2 dinners "on your own"), all admissions, special services and security. The cost does not include gratuities or personal property/trip cancellation insurance. Your cost will vary based upon the accommodations that you select at the King David Hotel. Land costs (inclusive) are as follows:

#### DELUXE NEW CITY VIEWS

DOUBLE OCCUPANCY: **$1,599.00 per person**

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: **$460.00**

Child up to age 12, sharing room with parents: **$1,100.00 per child**

#### DELUXE OLD CITY VIEWS

DOUBLE OCCUPANCY: **$1,769.00 per person**

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: **$621.00**

Child up to age 12, sharing room with parents: **$1,100.00 per child**

## *From the* Rabbi's Desk

*Continued from page 2*

even an impoverished Moabite girl can marry an aristocratic Israelite and become the progenitor of the king of Israel, and eventually the Messiah.

The central message of Ruth is not to look at bloodlines, at nationality, or at race, but rather to look at character and values. Ruth was a Moabite, a people hated by the Israelites. The Torah teaches that "No Ammonite or Moabite shall be admitted into the congregation of the Lord, none of their descendants, even in the tenth generation shall even be admitted into the congregation of the Lord." (Deuteronomy 23:4) What irony that the ideal convert through the ages was a Moabite woman.

The message of Ruth is not just about conversion. It is also about judging other people. To quote Martin Luther King, Jr., "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." Ruth was a Moabite, a people despised by the Israelites. Yet, through her kindness to her mother-in-law, she was able to enter the people Israel and eventually give birth to the grandfather of a king. We all need to look at character, not at lineage, when judging other people.

The author of the book of Ruth had an agenda, to change the attitude of the Israelite people. The Rabbis who established the sacred canon accepted this book, despite its controversy. Ruth came to teach us that we are more than mere genes, born of a particular father and mother. We are each uniquely valuable, created in the image of a loving God. We deserve to be judged by our actions, not by our lineage.

**Paulette R. Posner,**
*Assistant Rabbi*

## *From the* Chairman

The spring has been a very busy time for the Board of Trustees and Advisory Council. We met in both March and April in our continuing quest to assess the needs of the Synagogue and to address them.

The March board meeting focused on our ongoing and extremely important relationship with The Jewish Theological Seminary. J.T.S. and Park Avenue Synagogue have a very special connection. We discussed the many ways in which we work together and the need that we have as a congregation to support J.T.S. in all its endeavors. The board also passed a conflict-of-interest policy, which all board members and Advisory Council members will sign.

The April meeting focused on the budget. We are determined to continue offering the highest level of programming at the Synagogue while being ever mindful of the financial demands that increasing dues place on our membership. As chairman, I feel extremely lucky to be working with an incredible group of individuals, all of whom approach their tasks with diligence. They represent you well.

I look forward to celebrating Israel Independence Day with you on May 2, 2004 as our "Israel This Year" programming continues. See you there.

**Amy A.B. Bressman,**
*Chairman*

## All About *Shavuot*

*Shavuot*, the Festival of Weeks or Pentecost, is celebrated exactly seven weeks after Passover. It is observed for one day in Israel and for two days by those of us who live in the diaspora.

Originally, *Shavuot* was solely an agricultural festival, a time of ceremony and rejoicing, when the first fruits were brought to Jerusalem. But, in time, it became associated historically with the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai.

During the services on this festival, we read the Ten Commandments and the general theme is the Jewish love of learning. Also, the Book of Ruth is read because it shows the great devotion of Ruth to her adopted faith and people.

Among the customs associated with *Shavuot* are decorating the synagogue with flowers, all-night study (*Tikun Leyl Shavuot*), and the eating of dairy foods, which is symbolic of the concept of Israel as the land of milk and honey.

# Park Avenue Synagogue Happenings

Photo: Shahar Azran

## Ambassador Alon Pinkas To Highlight May 8 *Shabbat* Service

As part of the Synagogue's year-long focus on Israel, the Men's Club proudly presents Ambassador Alon Pinkas, the Consul General of the State of Israel in New York, who will speak at a special *Shabbat* Service on **Saturday, May 8**, at **9:15 am**.

Ambassador Pinkas has devoted his career to serving the State of Israel in the field of foreign relations. Prior to taking up his current post, Ambassador Pinkas served as Chief of Staff to both Minister of Foreign Affairs Shlomo Ben-Ami and former Minister of Foreign Affairs David Levy, where he played an integral role in the Middle East peace process, attending negotiating sessions at all levels around the world.

Ambassador Pinkas worked closely with Minister of Foreign Affairs and later Prime Minister Ehud Barak as his foreign policy advisor. He also served as political advisor to former Minister of Foreign Affairs Shimon Peres, and as special advisor on arms control to the director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. All congregants are urged to attend the service to hear Ambassador Pinkas.

## *Yom HaAtzmaut* Party and Performance

The entire congregation is invited to celebrate Israel's 56th anniversary on **Sunday, May 2** at **4:00 pm**, with a remarkable group of Israeli teenage performers. The *Tzofim* are a singing troupe comprised of Israel's most talented high school youth. A joyous party will follow the performance.

## *Lag B'Omer* Picnic in Central Park

Relax and mingle with the clergy and fellow congregants of all ages in the East Meadow of Central Park at a fun-filled intergenerational picnic on **Thursday, May 13** at **5:30 pm.** There will be food, and games led by enthusiastic members of the Family Education/*Kehillah* committee and our motivated Congregational School students. Participants should bring a dairy or *pareve* picnic dinner and a blanket; dessert will be provided.

## *Rinah U'Tefilah:* A Joyous Service of Song and Prayer

Put a song in your heart and a prayer on your lips on **Friday, May 7** at **6:15 pm** at this uplifting service that provides a spiritual bridge between the hectic pace of the week and the serenity of *Shabbat*. The service will be led by the Rabbis and Cantors and special musical guests, and will be followed by a festive *Kiddush*.

## WEG *Shabbat* and Dinner

The Women's Evening Group invites all congregants, their families, and friends to join it in its annual *Kabbalat Shabbat* service on Friday evening, **May 14** at **6:15 pm**. There will be a featured speaker and a festive *Shabbat* dinner (reservations required). Everyone is cordially invited to participate in conducting the service with WEG and the clergy. Kindly contact the P.A.S. office immediately to reserve a dinner place and/or to let us know that you wish to participate in leading *tefillot*.

WEG is also proud to announce its slate of officer nominees for the coming year; additional nominations were accepted from the floor: Co-Presidents: Linda Klempner and Beth Gray Tannenbaum; Vice Presidents: Eleanore Geringer, Irene Sommerfeld and Nina Firisen Wallach; Treasurer: Madeleine Redlich; Recording Secretary: Beverly Diamond.

## *Shabbat* Morning Plus!

Experience a unique and expanded spirit of song at the last of this year's series of musical services. Music will burst forth from every corner of the Sanctuary on **Saturday, May 15** at **9:15 am**. Grow in your involvement, knowledge and appreciation for *Shabbat* morning worship at this wonderful service.

## Young Couples Club to Discuss "Faith and Doubt"

Suzette and Andres Rubinstein will host the Young Couples Group at their home on **May 17**, at **7:45 pm.** Rabbi Kenneth Stern will lead a discussion on "Faith and Doubt: The Limits of Dissent." All are invited.

## Sisterhood Celebration of Israel

Join Sisterhood on **May 18** at **1 pm** to examine Israel's ancient civilizations, its modern accomplishments, and its vibrant spiritual and cultural life through the film, *Israel: The Land and the People*. The film will be an introduction to a discussion of the Synagogue's year-long emphasis on Israel and our congregational trip to Israel in December.

## 122nd Annual Meeting of Park Avenue Synagogue

The annual Congregational Meeting of Park Avenue Synagogue is your opportunity to hear the "State of the Congregation" report reviewing activities of 2003-2004, from Chairman Amy A.B. Bressman, and to congratulate congregational officers and members of the Board of Trustees and Advisory Council as they are inducted by our clergy. All members are urged to attend the meeting on **Wednesday, May 19** at **7:00 pm** in the Hall of Worship. And all are cordially invited to a complimentary Buffet Dinner at **6:00 pm** prior to the meeting, to mingle with the clergy, your lay leadership and fellow congregants. Don't miss this important meeting!

## Salute to Israel Day Parade

Join us on **Sunday, May 23** as we march down Fifth Avenue showing our support and solidarity with Israel. This event is a lot of fun and an important way to express your love and concern for Israel. Open to children in grades 4 and up together with their families, as well as adult congregants of all ages. Please mark your calendar for this special New York City event and look for details in the mail or call the Synagogue office at (212) 369-2600 for more information.

Israel this year
Park Avenue Synagogue

## *Tikun Leyl Shavuot*

It is a Jewish Tradition to spend the first night of *Shavuot* studying the Torah, because it is on *Shavuot* that we celebrate the giving of the Torah to Moses and the Jewish people. This tradition is called *Tikun Leyl Shavuot*.

On Tuesday, May 25 at 8:00 pm, Cantors David Lefkowitz and Nancy Abramson, together with the Synagogue Choir, will conduct a special Festival service, which will be followed by a study session with the clergy. The topic will be announced at a later date.

Following the study session, cheesecake and coffee will be served in honor of the tradition of eating dairy foods on *Shavuot*. We hope you will join us.

JTS The Jewish Theological Seminary

## A Tribute to Ismar Schorsch

On **May 24**, The Jewish Theological Seminary will mark Chancellor Ismar Schorsch's eighteenth year at the helm with a gala cocktail party and other festivities. Highlights will include an academic convocation to be keynoted by Dr. Paula Hyman, a leading modern Jewish history scholar; walking tours of the J.T.S. campus and of a newly installed photo exhibit tracing J.T.S.'s evolution into the academic and spiritual center of Conservative Judaism. A book of Dr. Schorsh's collected writings will be available for distribution as will a specially produced commemorative journal. For ticket and other information, J.T.S. has created a special Tribute website at *www.jtsa.edu/tribute*. A Tribute hotline has also been set up at (212) 280-6025, and information can also be obtained by emailing *publicity@jtsa.edu*


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# May

## *B'nai Mitzvah*

### Tyler Courtney Landau

**May 1, 2004**

May 1st is a very special day because Tyler Courtney Landau is celebrating both her *Bat Mitzvah* and her birthday! She has grown up at The Park Avenue Synagogue, having had her baby naming here and attending the Hebrew school since she was in kindergarten. Tyler attends the Dalton School and is in 7th grade. Although a very diligent, studious and serious student, she lights up every room with her sunny disposition, breezy nature, and amazing laugh. Tyler has a very sensitive and caring nature, thus she has many friends and is always willing to help others. Tyler follows her sister, Morgan, and brother, Justin, on becoming a *Bat Mitzvah* at the synagogue. In fact, Tyler's Torah portion has become a family tradition; it is the same one as her brother and her mother read. Her entire family is honored to have you celebrate this very special day with them.

### Carolyn Ruvkun

**May 8, 2004**

For the past eight years, Carolyn Ruvkun has been attending the Park Avenue Synagogue Congregational School. Currently, she attends the Brearley School, where she is a student in the seventh grade. She is a member of her school's softball and swimming teams. She studies the piano and plays the violin in her school's orchestra. She also enjoys playing tennis.

Carolyn has dedicated her *Bat Mitzvah* to the act of *tzedakah* by contributing to the new Hadassah Hospital Center for Emergency Medicine now under construction in Jerusalem. Additionally, in celebration of her *Bat Mitzvah*, trees will be planted in the Children's Forest in Israel in honor of all of her guests.

Carolyn will be reading from *Emor*, which discusses the laws and responsibility of the *Kohanim*. At her *Bat Mitzvah*, Carolyn is looking forward to seeing her family and friends, many of whom will travel a long distance to be here. Carolyn would like to thank the entire clergy and her teachers at Park Avenue Synagogue for their guidance and encouragement in helping her become a *Bat Mitzvah*. Lastly, Carolyn would like to thank her family for their love and support.

### Sarah Weingarten

**May 15, 2004**

Sarah Weingarten, who was named after two of her great-grandparents, is a seventh grader at the Spence School. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, drawing, designing clothes and computer programming. Sarah is also an avid skier, and has mastered very difficult terrain while on family ski vacations in Colorado. She has an affinity for all animals, and enjoys horseback riding. Sarah wishes to thank the clergy of Park Avenue Synagogue, and the faculty of the Congregational School, for preparing her for her *Bat Mitzvah*.

### Barry Weinstein

**May 22, 2004**

Barry Weinstein is a seventh grader at the Calhoun School. He joined the P.A.S. Congregational School in the *Prozdor (Gan)* grade. He went to Workmen's Circle Yiddish Cultural School as well, and recreated the role of the mouse, ("the maisele") in a revival of the Yiddish musical, *LLALKES* (Puppets). He attended Camp Kinder Ring for many years. Barry enjoys tennis, skiing, origami, and watching comedians on *Comedy Central*. A *tzedakah* project tied into his *Bar Mitzvah* will benefit the National Yiddish Book Center, where Barry visited this past summer to see his great-grandparents' memorial apple trees, and the USO, which Barry hopes will continue to bring comedy shows to soldiers serving abroad. He and his family wish to thank the staff and clergy of Park Avenue Synagogue for their patience, devotion and kindness to Barry during his *Bar Mitzvah* preparation.

### Welcome to P.A.S.

*Park Avenue Synagogue warmly welcomes these new members to our congregational family:*

Mr. Jason & Mrs. Mia Bauer, Mr. Lawrence Cobrin & Dr. Gena Cobrin, Mr. Micah & Mrs. Marla Goodman, Ms. Susan Kozicharow, Ms. Frieda Leszkowitz, Mr. Michael Levine & Dr. Stephanie Newman, Mr. Adam & Mrs. Janet Lichtenstein, Mr. Ernest McNutt & Ms. Evelyn Finster, Mr. Harold Schwartz & Ms. Elisa Pollack, Mr. James & Mrs. Regine Stone, Dr. Mark & Mrs. Gabrielle Tullman.

# Jewish Life and Learning

## Adult Study and Learning

*Please call Sarah Gribetz (212) 369-2600 x142 to register or reserve. The cost for classes is $25 / members; $40 / non-members, unless otherwise noted.*

***Yisrael B'Shirah* (Israel in Song)**
Brian Gelfand, instructor.
**Mondays, May 3 & 10,**
**7:00 pm-7:45 pm**
Join Brian Gelfand, our highly regarded Jewish musician and educator, as he takes us on a musical journey through the history of the modern State of Israel. Learn new songs and sing together (no knowledge of Hebrew necessary).

**Book Discussion Group**
Pat Davidson, leader.
**Monday, May 17, 8:00 pm**
Free of charge.
Contemporary Jewish books are selected, read and discussed. Join us for a very lively discussion of *The Liberated Bride* by A. B. Yehoshua.

## This Month in Israel's History...

***To help you learn more about Israel's rich history and feel even more connected to Eretz Yisrael, each month during Park Avenue Synagogue's Israel Year, we will highlight important events in Israel's past. We hope you will discuss them with family and friends, and read more about those that particularly interest you.***

| | |
|---|---|
| May 5, 1948 | Establishment of the State of Israel. |
| May 11, 1948 | 1949 Israel is accepted into General Assembly of the U.N. |
| May 8, 1960 | Letters from Bar Kochba archives are found in Judaean Desert. |
| May 18. 1966 | Prime Minister Eshkol declares that Israel has no nuclear arms and won't be the first to introduce them to the Middle East. |
| May 9, 1972 | IDF commandos gain control of hijacked Sabena plane at Lod Airport. |
| May 2, 1982 | Government ceases El Al flights on *Shabbat* as part of coalition agreement. |
| May 29, 1996 | Benjamin Netanyahu is elected Prime Minister of Israel. |

**A Behind-the-Scenes Tour of the Museum of Jewish Heritage**
**Wednesday, May 6, 6:00 pm**
$12 / person
*Ours To Fight For: American Jews in the Second World War* examines and celebrates the role of Jewish men and women who were part of the American war effort on and off of the battlefield, illustrating what the war experience was for its participants and for Jews in particular. View a provocative and unusual exhibit. Please register early, as space is limited.

## Family Education/Kehillah

**Israel Day Parade Art Workshop**
**Sunday, May 16, 10:00 am-1:00 pm**
Free of charge.
Create the banner and props for Park Avenue Synagogue's participation in the Israel Day Parade. Brunch will be served. A great way to spend a Sunday morning.

**Tot *Shabbat* Services**
**Saturday, May 1 and 15,**
**11:15 am-12 noon**
These services are a wonderful opportunity for toddlers and pre-school aged children to celebrate *Shabbat* with their parents, grandparents and friends, and are very popular among our young families. Join us in prayer, song, story and dance.

# Synagogue Family

*Continued*

## With Pride and Congratulations

*Park Avenue Synagogue extends a hearty mazel tov to:*

- Carrie & David Zimmerman on the birth of their daughter, Gabrielle Paige Zimmerman, on March 4.

## Condolences

*Park Avenue Synagogue extends heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved of our congregation and to their families:*
Alan Levine, on the passing of his mother, Florence Levine.
David Levitan, on the passing of his wife, Judith Levitan.
Esther Solomon Purgess, on the passing of her mother, Anna Cohen Solomon.

## The P.A.S. Bereavement Group

Those who have lost loved ones or friends will find support and understanding at Park Avenue Synagogue's Bereavement Group. The group meets monthly and is facilitated by Dr. Sheila Erlich, a licensed psychologist. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, **May 13, 4:00-5:00 pm** in the Family Room. For additional information, please call Rabbi Kenneth Stern at (212) 369-2600.

## News From Our Schools

# Congregational School

*by Renee Ghert-Zand, Director*

# Wrapping It Up

Invariably, the school year seems to come to a close very quickly. The time between September and May passes so rapidly, in the form of a whirlwind of learning and educational activities. Although the beginning of the year is always full of excitement for what is yet to come, it is so gratifying at the close of the year to look back with satisfaction and pride on what has been accomplished. As it says in the book of *Kohelet* (Ecclesiastes), better the end of a thing than the beginning thereof.

However, what is most important is what comes between the beginning and the end. This is precisely what is celebrated at our annual *Tekes Siyyum*/Moving Up Ceremony, which will take place on **May 21.** Inaugurated last year, this annual event provides a formal closure to the school year and marks the transition from one grade to another. Last year, each grade grouping created an object that reflected what it considered the highlight of its curriculum to be passed down to the children entering that grade the next fall. This year, we have decided to have each class contribute to the creation and decoration of a *pitgam* tree, since *pitgamim* (Jewish proverbs, maxims) have been a theme in the school this year. The students will work on this project with their classroom teachers, as well as with our artist-in-residence, Ellen Alt.

It was actually back in March that I began thinking about figuratively wrapping up the year. This was when I observed our *Vav* students literally wrapping up — learning how to wrap *tefillin* in workshops led by our clergy and faculty. I saw something much larger than the students' merely learning how to perform this one, albeit critical, *mitzvah*. I felt that we were experiencing our mission in action. To me, this was a symbol, a sign of how our students are growing up and learning, with the help of our school, our Synagogue, and their families, to become knowledgeable, confident and committed adult Jews.

***Vav* grade students proudly learn to wrap *tefillin*. As an egalitarian congregation, we teach both boys and girls how to perform this *mitzvah*. Every year, *Vav* students and their parents visit a *sofer* on the Lower East Side with Rabbi Stern to buy new *tefillin* or have old *tefillin* checked.**

### May Dates To Remember

- May 1 – *Nitzanim* Service required for *Gan, Alef, Bet* & *MATAN rishon* families R-Z
- May 4 – *Vav* visit to The Jewish Museum
- May 5 – *Hay* visit to The Jewish Museum
- May 8 – *Shabbat B'yachad* for *Gimel, Daled, Hay, Vav* & *MATAN sheni* families
- May 11 – *Vav* visit to The Jewish Museum
- May 13 – Early dismissal at 5:15 pm for *Lag B'omer* picnic
- May 20 – Last day of the school year
- May 21 – Annual *Tekes Siyyum*/Moving Up Ceremony and Friday Evening Service
- May 23 – Salute to Israel Parade festival.

### May Birthday Celebration

Bring *Shabbat* into your children's lives by celebrating their birthdays at P.A.S. All children with May birthdays will be called up to the *bimah* and honored at our May Birthday Celebration Service, **Friday evening, May 14** at **6:15 pm** Come as a family and celebrate. Call Rabbi Kenneth Stern's office for more information.

### Celebrating a *Simcha*?

A birthday, anniversary, engagement, wedding, new grandchild, etc? Sponsor a breakfast *Kiddush* any weekday after our Morning *Minyan*! Call Lynn Schneider in the Synagogue office for more information (212) 369-2600.

### Apply now for 2004-2005 CS School Year

The P.A.S. Congregational School is now accepting applications for the 2004-2005 school year. Members and non-members are invited to apply for places in *Gan, Alef* and *Bet* grades, as well as transfers into *Gimel* and *Daled* grades. Applications will be considered in the order in which they are received. For more information or to request an application, please call (212) 369-2600, ext. 131, or visit *www.pasyn.org*.

### Attention Day School Families

We are trying to assemble a comprehensive list of Park Avenue Synagogue children who currently attend a Jewish day school, or will begin attending one in the fall of 2004. Please call Naomi Lipnick at (212) 369-2600, ext. 121, with the name, grade and school that your child attends.

## Rabbi Judah Nadich High School

by *Lisa Samick, Director*

# Honoring Our 7th and 8th Graders

On **Sunday, May 16** we will come together to honor those 7th and 8th graders who have successfully completed the new Social Action program in the Rabbi Judah Nadich High School. Beginning in September, our students participated in a four-month curriculum focusing on social issues facing our world today and examining what Jewish thought is on each. We looked closely at the idea of *tikkun olam* (healing the world) and what role each of us must play in that process as Jews and as members of our community. Together we grappled with issues like poverty, homelessness, hunger, caring for the elderly and the sick, and the situation between Israelis and Palestinians in the Middle East.

**Rachel Bernstein focused on alleviating hunger by volunteering her time at the NCJW soup kitchen every Wednesday.**

In February, each student chose an issue he or she wanted to focus on and in small groups partnered with organizations around the city – Jewish and secular – to help address that issue. In the months following, each student has completed a path that has included volunteering, Jewish text study, reflection and discussion, helping them to find the power in their actions and in their own voices.

We are thrilled with the results of this new initiative and are so proud of our students who have completed the required courses and volunteer hours. On the 16th, we will come together with representatives from each of the organizations we partnered with—National Council of Jewish Women, Dorot, Momentum AIDS, Soaringwords, and the West End Intergenerational Center—to recognize the commitment of these students and to view their *sikkum* projects.

We are looking forward to continuing this program with our 7th and 8th grade classes next year and to welcoming them into the High School community.

### May Dates To Remember

- May 16—*Chesed* Brunch (for 7th and 8th graders and their families)
- May 19—High School Year-End Bar-B-Q on the roof

## Early Childhood Center

*by Carol Hendin, Director*

# ECC Applications for 2005-2006

If you are a member family who would like to apply to the Park Avenue Synagogue Early Childhood Center for the 2005-06 school year, please call the school between May 1 and June 30, 2004 to request an application form (the school will be closed between June 30 and mid-August).

All children who were born *before* April 1, 2003 are eligible for school in September 2005. The Early Childhood Center adheres strictly to its cut-off dates. Families who have been active longtime members of the Synagogue are given special consideration. However, because of limitations on class size and the need to balance groups in a variety of ways, membership does not guarantee acceptance.

There is an application fee of $40 per child. The application process includes a visit and tour of the school by one or both parents and a separate visit with the child.

For the September 2004 school year there were approximately 50 openings. We would appreciate receiving applications or expressions of interest for the 2005 school year from eligible member families as early as possible and prior to September to enable us to determine how many applications from new members and non-members we will be able to accept.

## *Bikur Cholim* Caring Committee

The Park Avenue Synagogue *Bikur Cholim* Caring Committee reaches out in complete confidence to the ill, elderly and homebound in friendship and companionship through telephone calls and/or visits. If you would like to be contacted by one of its caring, dedicated volunteers, or know someone who might benefit from the committee's attention, please contact Rabbi Lincoln's secretary, Liya, at (212) 369-2600.

IF IT'S NEW, IF IT'S TRENDY,
IT'S HERE FOR YOU
NYC'S HOT SPOT FOR THE
COOLEST TWEEN CLOTHES
CLOTHES & ACCESSORIES FOR
GIRLS & BOYS AGE 7 TO 15
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# Contributions

### *Bikur Cholim*

Sylvia & Hy Pardes, in honor of Dr. & Mrs. Steven Weinfeld receiving the Humanitarian Award from The New Square community.

### Clara Hammel Memorial Library Fund

Dr. Leslie Hammel, in memory of his beloved wife, Clara Hammel.

### High School Food Pantry

Mr. A. Stanely Gluck, in memory of his beloved father, Joseph Gluck.
Ellen & Bill Harrow, in memory of Dr. Harris Nagler's father, Dr. Simon Nagler.
Dr. & Mrs. Samuel Katz.
Mrs. Nancy S. Levine, in honor of Jeffrey Schwarz's award from The Solomon Schechter School.
Rabbi David & Susan Lincoln, wishing you a "Happy Purim".
Carol & Steve Mandel, in memory of their beloved father, Walter Hoexter.
Mrs. Sheila Miller, in memory of her beloved mother, Anne Baker.
Freema & Harris Nagler, in honor of their daughter Arielle's birthday.
Freema & Harris Nagler, in honor of their daughter Gabrielle's birthday.
Freema & Harris Nagler, in memory of Hannah Chalkin.
Lynn Schneider, in memory of Inez Ferguson.
Renee, Jeffrey, Morgan and Joshua Spindler, in honor of Renee Ghert-Zand.
Roberta & Eugene Zinbarg, in memory of Celia Wiener, mother of Meryl Wiener.

### *Kol Nidre* Appeal 2003 / 5764

*Donations between March 8, 2004 and April 8, 2004:*
Mr. & Mrs. Martin J. Milston.

### Liturgical Music Fund

Mrs. Rita Shapiro in memory of Sarah, Samuel and George M. Shapiro.

### Albert & Rachel Murad Memorial Scholarship Fund

Dr. Howard Murad, in memory of Susie Becerra's father.

### Prayer Book Fund

Barbara & Buddy Ginsberg, in honor of Marion & Sherwood Schwarz's 50th wedding anniversary.
Ellen & Bill Harrow, in memory of Dr. Neil Coplan's father, Joseph Coplan.
Ellen & Bill Harrow, in loving memory of Susan Wasserman.
Ellen & Bill Harrow, in loving memory of Samuel Agress.
Mr. & Mrs. Herman Rosen, in honor of their 58th wedding anniversary.
The Spindlers, in honor of Rabbi Kenneth Stern.

### David J. Putterman Music Fund

Mrs. Babette Balis, in memory of her beloved father, Walter Hoexter.
Elaine, Eric and Elliot Balis, in memory of their beloved grandpa, Walter.
Mr. Louis B. Bernstein, in honor of his birthday.

### Welfare Fund

Mr. Arthur Ascher, in memory of his beloved father, Louis Ascher.
Mr. Arthur Ascher, in memory of his beloved mother, Rose Ascher.
Drs. Manfred & Matilda Brust, in memory of their beloved son, Daniel Brust.
Mrs. Patricia Fuchs, in memory of her beloved grandfather, Jacob Bayer.
Marvin & Audrey Goldstein, in honor of their daughters, Rachel, Sara and Leah.

### Synagogue Offerings

Mr. Robert Adler, in memory of his beloved mother, Vivian Adler.
Mrs. Blanche Agisim, in honor of her birthday.
Mrs. Judith Agisim, in memory of her beloved mother, Vera G. Gottfried.
Mr. Harris Amster, in memory of his beloved mother, Anna Amster.
Mrs. Susan Amster, in memory of her beloved father, Ezra J. Denerstein.
Mrs. Irena Appel, in honor of her birthday.
Mr. Joseph A. Bamberger, in memory of his beloved father, Dr. Seligman Bamberger.
Mrs. Alice Berger, in memory of her beloved mother, Betty Carb Greenberg.
Mrs. Marilyn Berman, in memory of her beloved mother and father, Florence and Jerome Solomon.
Mrs. Florence Bernstein, in memory of her beloved mother, Pearl Michaelson.
Mrs. Vivian Bernstein, in memory of her beloved mother, Eva Glasser.
Mr. Morris E. Biederman, in honor of his birthday.
Drs. Manfred & Matilda Brust, in memory of their beloved son, Daniel Brust.
Mr. Wallace Chavkin, in memory of his beloved father, Nathan Louis Chavkin.
Dr. Ethel R. Cutler, in honor of her birthday.
Mrs. Irene Eisenberg, in honor of her birthday.
Mrs. Gertrude Axel Fehl, in honor of her birthday.
Mrs. Eleanor Frommer, in memory of her beloved mother, Harriet Goldman Hakmaier.
Mrs. Ruth Fuhrman, in memory of her beloved husband, Joseph Fuhrman.
Ms. Esther Gelber, in memory of Susan Wasserman.
Mr. Harold Geringer, in memory of his beloved father, Nathan Geringer.
Mrs. Martha Gold, in memory of her beloved mother, Clara Roth.
Lisa, Matt, Alexandra, Jacquelyn and Danielle Golden in honor of Rabbi Paulette & Jeremy Posner's wedding.
Lisa, Matt, Alexandra and Jacquelyn Golden, in honor of Danielle Jeanne's first birthday.
Dr. Ethan Gologor, in memory of his beloved wife, Masha Tumarkin.
Dr. Ethan Gologor, in memory of his beloved father, Harold Gologor.
Linda, Jennifer and Jason Grad, in memory of Dr. Gary J. Grad on his birthday, April 17th.
Linda & Jennifer Grad, congratulations to Jason S. Grad on his 17th birthday, April 25th.
Dr. Linda Grad, in memory of Pearl Memling.
Ms. Carolyn Greenberg, in memory of her beloved mother, Sue Greenberg.
Mr. Paul S. Hall, in memory of his beloved father, Jacob Hall.
Mr. Fred H. Hill, in memory of his beloved mother, Ellen Hill Sherr.
Mrs. Shelly Holm, in memory of her beloved father, Murry Erlich.
Mrs. Carol Hyman, in memory of her beloved mother, Ann Davis.
Mrs. Rosamond Kaufman, in memory of her beloved mother-in-law, Babe Kaufman.
Mr. William Kaye, in memory of his beloved father, Emanuel Kaye.
Mrs. Linda Klempner, in memory of Vivian Eisenberg, sister of Lawrence Lerner.
Mrs. Joan Lefkowitz, in memory of my dear father, Irving J. Mintzer.
Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Leon, in loving memory of her beloved father, David Benjamin.
Mrs. Phyllis Leventhal, with eternal gratitude and in loving memory of my father, Dr. Leo Braun.
Ms. Ketty Setton-Levantrosser, in memory of her beloved brother, Jacques Medini.
Ronit & Tibor Moskovits, with thanks for everyone's help and support with Susan Moskovits' *Bat Mitzvah.*
Mrs. Janet Moss, in honor of her birthday.
Mrs. Janet Moss, in memory of Sylvia Ehrlich.
Mrs. Violet Murad, in memory of her beloved son, Frederick Murad.
Mr. Herbert Nadler, in memory of his beloved mother, Mary Nadler.
Mrs. Jaclyn Neustein, in memory of her beloved father, Max Wolf.
Mrs. Elana Unterman Newman, in memory of her beloved father, Rabbi Jacob Unterman.
Mrs. Ruth Pordy, in memory of her beloved father, Samuel Gansberg.
Mrs. Ruth Pordy, in honor of her birthday.
Mrs. Joan Robbins, in memory of her beloved husband, Bernard Robbins.
Mrs. Sherry Rutman, in memory of her beloved mother, Leah Berg.
Mr. & Dr. Richard Samuels, in memory of their beloved daughter, Debra Lynn Greenberg.
Mrs. Joan Schefler, in memory of Sandra Meron's aunt.
Sylvan & Joan Schefler, in honor of Dr. Harry Spiera's award from Mt Sinai.
Mrs. Marion Schwarz, in memory of Mayer Falk.
Mr. Eytan M. Shapiro & Ms.Lesley-Anne Gliedman, in honor of their anniversary.
Mrs. Helen Shapiro, in memory of her beloved brother, Sidney Lipton.
Mrs. Esther Silver, in memory of her beloved mother, Pauline Altfeld.
Mrs. Esther Silver, in memory of her beloved uncle, Sid Hockmeyer.
Ms.Heidi Silverstone, in memory of her beloved grandmother, Matty Tavel.
Mr. & Mrs. Sheldon Siskin, in honor of their anniversary.
Mr. Lawrence G. Soicher, in memory of Carol Furman.
Mr. Lawrence G. Soicher, in memory of his beloved mother, Rose Soicher.
Ms. Lois Stumer, in memory of her beloved father, David Schulman.
Mrs. Bernice Tannenbaum, in memory of her beloved father, Isadore Franklin.
Mrs. Nancy Treiger, in memory of her beloved mother, Ann Davis.
Mr. Marvin Weinberg, in honor of his birthday.
Mrs. Roberta Zuckerman, in memory of her beloved mother, Tillie Greebel.

### *Tikkun Olam* Committee for Community Outreach

Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell Baron, in honor of the engagement of their daughter, Amanda Stacy, to Ross Rosenfelt.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS for MAY 2004

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **THE EDMOND DE ROTHSCHILD LIBRARY**<br>**Schedule of Hours:**<br>Mondays 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm<br>Tuesdays 2:30 am to 3:45 pm<br>Wednesdays 2:30 pm to 4:15 pm<br>Thursdays 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm | | | **REMEMBER THE DAILY MINYANIM**<br>Monday - Friday at 7:15 am<br>Sundays and Legal Holidays at 9 am<br>Sunday - Thursday at 5:45 pm<br>Saturday afternoons at 6:00 pm | | | **1**<br>7:30 am<br>*Hashkama* Service<br>9:15 am<br>Sanctuary Service–<br>*Bat Mitzvah* of Tyler Landau<br>10:00 am<br>Junior Congregation<br>11:00 am<br>*Nitzanim*<br>11:15 am<br>Tot *Shabbat* Service |
| **2**<br>4:00 pm<br>*Yom HaAtzmaut*<br>Performance & Party | **3**<br>7:00 pm<br>"Israel in Song"<br>7:30 pm<br>WEG Board Meeting | **4**<br>8:00 am<br>Talmud Study<br>w/ Rabbi Lincoln<br>11:00 am<br>Tuesday Topics<br>w/Rabbi Stern<br>12:00 pm<br>Sisterhood Board Meeting<br>7:30 pm<br>ECC Event | **5**<br>10:00 am<br>Adult *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* Class | **6**<br>11:00 am<br>Lunch 'n' Learn<br>6:00 pm<br>Museum of Jewish Heritage Tour | **7**<br>6:15 pm<br>*Rinah U'Tefilah* Service<br>6:39 pm<br>Light Candles | **8**<br>7:30 am<br>*Hashkama* Service<br>9:15 am<br>Sanctuary Service–<br>*Bat Mitzvah* of Carolyn Ruvkun, Ambassador Alon Pinkas, Guest Speaker<br>9:30 am *Havurah* Service<br>10:00 am *Beit Midrash*<br>*11:00 am Shabbat B'yachad*<br>11:00 am *Nitzanim*<br>11:30 am HS *Shabbat* |
| **9**<br>***Lag B'Omer*** | **10**<br>7:00 pm<br>"Israel in Song" | **11**<br>8:00 am<br>Talmud Study<br>w/ Rabbi Lincoln<br>11:00 am<br>Tuesday Topics<br>w/Rabbi Stern | **12**<br>10:00 am<br>Adult *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* Class | **13**<br>11:00 am<br>Lunch 'n' Learn<br>4:00 pm<br>Bereavement Group<br>5:30 pm<br>*Lag B'Omer* Picnic | **14**<br>6:15 pm<br>**May Children's Birthday Service**<br>WEG *Shabbat* Service & Dinner<br>(reservations required)<br>6:46 pm<br>Light Candles | **15**<br>7:30 am<br>*Hashkama* Service<br>9:15 am<br>Sanctuary *Shabbat* Morning Plus! Service–*Bat Mitzvah* of Sarah Weingarten<br>10:00 am<br>Junior Congregation<br>11:00 am *Nitzanim*<br>11:15 am Tot *Shabbat* |
| **16**<br>10:00 am<br>Israel Independence Day Parade Art Workshop & Brunch<br>11:00 am<br>HS *Chesed* Brunch | **17**<br>7:45 pm<br>Young Couples Group<br>8:00 pm<br>Book Discussion Group | **18**<br>8:00 am<br>Talmud Study<br>w/ Rabbi Lincoln<br>11:00 am<br>Tuesday Topics<br>w/ Rabbi Stern<br>1:00 pm<br>Sisterhood Open Meeting-<br>*Israel: The Land & The People* film | **19**<br>**Yom Yerushalayim**<br>10:00 am<br>Adult *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* Class<br>4:30 pm<br>HS BBQ<br>6:00 pm<br>Congregational Supper<br>7:00 pm<br>122nd Congregational Meeting | **20**<br>11:00 am<br>Lunch 'n' Learn | **21**<br>6:00 pm<br>*Tekkes Siyyum*<br>(Moving Up) Ceremony<br>6:15 pm<br>Friday Evening Service<br>7:00 pm<br>*Minyan Ma'alot*<br>6:52 pm<br>Light Candles | **22**<br>7:30 am<br>*Hashkama* Service<br>9:15 am<br>Sanctuary Service–<br>*Bar Mitzvah* of Barry Weinstein<br>9:30 am<br>*Havurah* Service |
| **23**<br>**Salute to Israel Parade**<br>**30** | **24**<br>**31** | **25**<br>8:00 am<br>Talmud Study<br>w/ Rabbi Lincoln<br>8:00 pm<br>***Erev Shavuot* Service**<br>***Minha, Ma'ariv & Tikun Layl Shavuot***<br>(special study session) | **26**<br>***Shavuot***<br>9:15 am<br>Sanctuary Service<br>5:45 pm<br>*Minha* | **27**<br>***Isru Hag (Shavuot)***<br>9:15 am<br>Sanctuary Service, including *Yizkor* | **28**<br>Friday Evening Service<br>6:58 pm<br>Light Candles | **29**<br>7:30 am<br>*Hashkama* Service<br>9:15 am<br>Sanctuary Service |

*Listings are accurate as of April 4, 2004. Dates & times are subject to change. Please check with the Synagogue office to confirm calendar information.*

## A Look Ahead

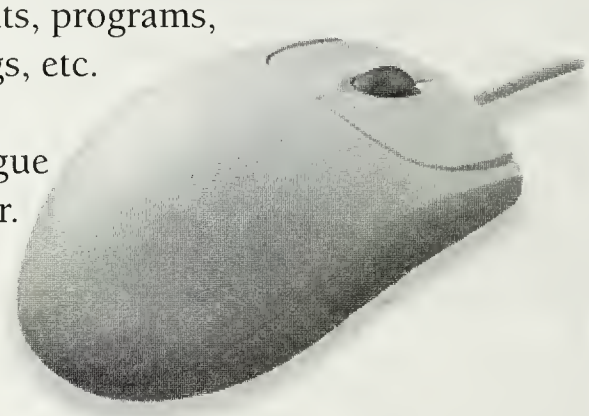
***Tikkun Olam***
**Committee for Community Outreach Annual Camp Clothing Drive**
***All day Tuesday and Wednesday, June 1 and 2;***
***Thursday, June 3 until 4 pm***
Clothes are being collected on behalf of the Metropolitan Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty, for children ages 8 and up. Please check your closets and drawers for items in very good condition that you can donate.

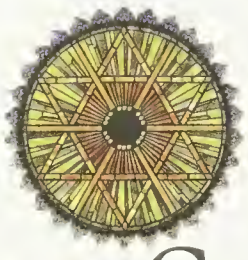
**Young Couples Club**
**Save the Date:**
***Wednesday, June 16***
Watch for details.

**WEG's Annual Members' End-of-Year HUC-JIR reception**
***Monday, June 21***
Jeanie Rosensaft, HUC-JIR Museum Director and P.A.S. and WEG member, will host a reception and museum tour for all paid-up WEG members.

## P.A.S. Is Just a Click Away

Spend a few minutes at Park Avenue Synagogue's website, *www.pasyn.org*. Get the latest information on events, programs, meetings, etc. See the Synagogue calendar. Sign up for email groups. Communicate with our clergy and staff.





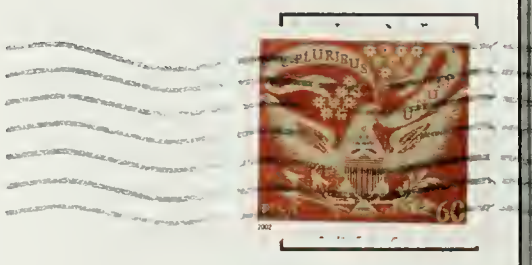
# ParkAvenue Synagogue

ק"ק אגודת ישרים

50 East 87th Street • New York, NY, 10128 • www.pasyn.org
Synagogue Office (212) 369-2600

*Affiliated with The Jewish Theological Seminary and the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism*

Judah Nadich, *Rabbi Emeritus*
David H. Lincoln, *Senior Rabbi*
Kenneth A. Stern, *Rabbi*
Paulette R. Posner, *Assistant Rabbi*
David Lefkowitz, *Senior Cantor*
Nancy Abramson, *Cantor*
Amy A.B. Bressman, *Chairman of the Board*
Menachem Z. Rosensaft, *President*
Beryl P. Chernov, *Executive Director*
Renee Ghert-Zand, *Director, Congregational School*
Carol Hendin, *Director, Early Childhood Center*
Linda Gordon, *Bulletin Editor*
B+W Creative Group NYC, *Graphic Design*
Plaza Jewish Community Chapel, Inc., *Funeral Directors*




Dr. & Mrs. Maury N. Harris
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